Demand for Vegetables and Fruits Grown without the use of Fertilizer

4071. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand for vegetables and fruits grown without the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides in the international market;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to encourage the farmers to grow vegetables and fruits without the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides ;

(c) what is the quantity and value of the vegetables and fruits grown at present without the use of inorganic fertilizers for export purpose; and

(d) what steps Government have so far taken to isolate organic farming area from the farms that use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to prevent the possibility of pollutant or contaminants seeping in thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken to encourage the farmers to grow vegetables and fruits without the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides *inter-alia* include the following:—

1. A scheme on 'Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers' has been taken up with a provision of Rs. 26 crores during VIII plan to encourage enhanced use of green manures, compost and Bio-fertilizers.

2. Keeping in view the concept of Integrated Nutrient Management, use of organic resources as complementary sources of nutrients alongwith chemical fertilizer is recommended/promoted.

3. A Standing-cum-Accreditation, Commitee to solve the policies and procedures for accreditation, inspection and certification agencies for organically produced agricultural products has been set up. The Committee will also have a mandate for developing production and export of agricultural products grown without the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.

(c) and (d) The Government is presently involved in promoting the concept and providing appropriate training. Presently, organic farming is being practised by individuals. No areas are earmarkes specifically where crops are to be grown without the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides.

Estimates of Food Production during 1993-94

4072. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether estimated have been prepared about the food production in the country during 1993-94 ; and

(b) if so, what is the likely yield, item-wise, this year alongwith the comparative figures for the past two years, and the percentage growth registered over the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The final estimates of production of foodgrains for 1993-94 have not yet become due from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the total production of foodgrains in the country during 1993-94 is expected to be about 180.52 million tonnes as against 180.01 and 168.38 million tonnes during the last two years i.e. 1992-93 and 1991-92 respectively. The item-wise details are given in the table below :—

(Million tonnes)

Crop	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (likely)	%age Increase (+)/decrease (—) in the production of 1993-94 over 1992-93
Rice	74.68	72.61	76.82	(+) 5.80
Wheat	55.69	56.76	57.80	(+) 1.83
Coarse Cereals	25.99	37.04	31.06	(—) 16.14
Pulses	12.02	13.60	14.84	(+) 9.12
Total Food-grains	168.38	180.01	180.52	(+) 0.28